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Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I regret to inform you that, on Tuesday 14 March 2000, troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army entered two Congolese towns, one being the town of Idumbe on the river Sankuru about 100 kilometres upstream from the river port of Ilebo in the province of Kasai-Occidental.

These new attacks once again sowed death and destruction. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is therefore mourning the deaths of hundreds of people, both civilians and military personnel.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to remind the Security Council that it is determined to fulfil the commitments it has undertaken within the context of the Lusaka Agreement, in particular the calendar thereof which was revised at the Lusaka Summit of 23 February 2000, and to assume the responsibilities placed on it by Security Council resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo invites the Council to note that Rwanda has clearly expressed a determination to obstruct the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in the context of the extension of the latter's mandate under Security Council resolution 1291 (2000).

With these new violations of the ceasefire, Rwanda is clearly trying to prevent any further deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *inter alia* in the context of the third phase thereof.

In the light of the foregoing, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo asks the Security Council to assume its responsibilities fully and to:

1. Condemn the attack by the armed coalition of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which started on 2 August 1998;

2. Take note of and strongly condemn this further flagrant violation by Rwanda of the Lusaka Agreement and of the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000);

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3 Demand that Rwanda comply strictly with the Lusaka Agreement and the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000), on pain of appropriate sanctions;

4. Demand the immediate disengagement of the regular Rwandan troops and their redeployment to the positions they occupied prior to 1 March 2000.

My Government requests you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ileka **Atoki**
Minister-Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.